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 Figure, round and vigorous
 -form both the lively
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STILL RAGING.

THE GREAT BATTLE.

ALLIES PUSH ON.

SUCCESS ON THE LEFT.

NORTH SEA DISASTER.

The German Plan.

The general battle in France is still raging, and for the most part the Allies are gradually pressing forward, the greatest success being achieved on the left flank.

Wounded from the battlefield state that the Germans have been driven back in the recent fighting, and express the opinion that they are unable to resist much longer.

The survivors of the disaster in the North Sea seem to be generally agreed that before the sank the cruiser Cressy sent two of the sinking submarines to the bottom.

British airmen have carried out a daring raid, and dropped bombs on Zeppelin airships near Cologne and Düsseldorf.

Russian reports state that there is now no doubt that the German plan has been radically changed.

While maintaining the defensive in the west, they are concentrating large forces to attack the Russians.

There are now nearly 600,000 Germans in East Prussia, and they are increasing daily. Nevertheless, the Germans refuse to take the battle into Russia, and, after their failure to turn German Rensselaer's left, have retired from Suwalki, Mariampol, and other points.

It is reported that all the fortifications in Galicia have fallen except Przemyśl and Cracow.

Up till September 14 the Russians had captured seven Austrian flags, 637 guns, 44 quick-firers, and 94,000 prisoners, including 535 officers.

WAR BULLETIN.

BATTLE OF THE AISNE.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

MELBOURNE, Thursday. Sir George Reid cables under date of September 22, 10.45 p.m.—

Official: The following descriptive account sent from headquarters, dated September 18, supplements and continues the account published on September 18 of the movements of the British force and of the French armies in immediate touch with it. It covers the period from September 14 to September 18.

On September 14 the Germans were making a determined resistance along the River Aisne. The opposition was first thought to be possibly a feint, and was not until material delay to our progress. It was developed and proved more serious than anticipated. The action now being fought by the Germans along their line may have been undertaken in order to put time for some strategic operation, and it may not be their main stand. The fighting is naturally on a scale which, as the extent of ground covered and duration of the fighting, makes it indistinguishable from the battle of the Marne. The battle has been a continuous one, and the French have been fighting heroically, and have been gradually gaining ground.

During this battle one village has been captured and recaptured twice by each side, and at the time of writing remains in German hands. Fighting has been at close quarters, and the most desperate nature, the streets of the village being filled with dead of both sides.

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measures which had been made by the enemy were more extensive than was first apparent. In order to counteract this, steps were taken by us to economize troops in order to secure protection from the hostile artillery fire, which was very fierce. Our men continued to improve their entrenchments.

The Germans bombarded our line nearly all day, using the heavy guns brought from the Marne. Although all their counter-attacks failed, although in some places they were repeated. One that was made on the Fourth Brigade of Guards was repulsed with heavy slaughter. An attempt to advance slightly which was made by part of our line was unsuccessful, and the Germans continued to bombard our position. Further counter-attacks were made during the night and beaten off. The rain came towards evening, and continued intermittently until 9 a.m. on September 16. The situation was not changed, and the soldiers holding the open trenches in the firing line, hampered the motor transport service, which has also been hindered by broken bridges.

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PRISONERS CAPTURED. Our First Army Corps, after repulsing repeated attacks, captured 600 prisoners and 12 guns, whilst the cavalry captured a number of prisoners. Many of the German prisoners belong to the 1st and 2nd Landwehr formations, which appears to indicate that the enemy was compelled to draw upon the older classes of soldiers to fill the gaps.

During September 15 the situation of the battle front in no sense was changed, and it became more evident that the

measures which had been made by the enemy were more extensive than was first apparent. In order to counteract this, steps were taken by us to economize troops in order to secure protection from the hostile artillery fire, which was very fierce. Our men continued to improve their entrenchments.

The Germans bombarded our line nearly all day, using the heavy guns brought from the Marne. Although all their counter-attacks failed, although in some places they were repeated. One that was made on the Fourth Brigade of Guards was repulsed with heavy slaughter. An attempt to advance slightly which was made by part of our line was unsuccessful, and the Germans continued to bombard our position. Further counter-attacks were made during the night and beaten off. The rain came towards evening, and continued intermittently until 9 a.m. on September 16. The situation was not changed, and the soldiers holding the open trenches in the firing line, hampered the motor transport service, which has also been hindered by broken bridges.

ENEMY DRIVEN BACK. On September 16 there was little change in the situation opposite the British line. Efforts made by the enemy were less active than on the previous day, although their bombardment continued during the morning and evening. Our artillery fired the defenders off one of the salients of their position, but they returned in the evening by the Third Division.

On September 17 the situation still remained unchanged in its essentials, but the German heavy artillery fire was more active than on the previous day. The only infantry attacks made by the enemy were on the extreme right of our position, and were repulsed, chiefly by our field artillery, with heavy loss.

In order to convey some idea of the nature of the fighting along the greater part of our front it should be stated that the Germans have been driven back from the forward slopes on the north side of the river. Their infantry are holding strong lines of trenches amongst and along the edges of the numerous woods which crown these slopes. These entrenchments are elaborately constructed, and are cleverly concealed in most places by wire entanglements and lengths of netting, forming both in the woods and in the open, and are so carefully aligned that they can be seen by rifle fire and machine guns which are invisible from our side. The ground in front of the infantry trenches is as a rule under a cross fire from the field artillery placed on neighboring features, and under a high angle fire from pieces placed well back behind the woods on the top of the plateau.

HEAVY HOWITZERS. A feature of this action is the use made by the enemy of numerous heavy howitzers, which are used to direct long range fire all over the valley and right across it. Upon these they place great reliance. Where our men are forced on edges of high ground on the north side they are now strongly entrenched. They are well protected, and in spite of the wet weather of the past week are cheerful and confident. The bombardment on both sides has been very heavy. On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday it was practically continuous. In spite of the general din caused by the reports of the immense number of howitzers in action, our front on Wednesday, the arrival of the French force acting against the German right flank was at once announced on the east of our front, some miles away, by the continuous report of their quick-firing artillery, with which their attack opened.

As for the British, they are concerned with the greater part of the week have been passed in bombardment, in gaining ground by degrees, and in beating back severe counter-attacks with heavy slaughter. Our casualties are severe, but probably those of the enemy were heavier. The rain caused a great drop in temperature. On our right and left the French have been fighting heroically, and have been gradually gaining ground.

During this battle one village has been captured and recaptured twice by each side, and at the time of writing remains in German hands. Fighting has been at close quarters, and the most desperate nature, the streets of the village being filled with dead of both sides.

MORALE OF THE ALLIES. As an example of the spirit which is inspiring our Allies, the following translation of the order published on September 9, after the battle of Montfaucon, by the Petit Morin, 90 miles east of Paris, by the commander of the French Army, was given to the soldiers:—

"Upon the memorable field of Montfaucon, of Champagne, where a century ago witnessed the victories of Joan of Arc, our countrymen, our glorious offensive has triumphed over the resistance of the Germans. His flanks and his centre are broken. The enemy is now retreating towards the east and north by forced marches. The most renowned army corps of the world are now following them. However, and Brandeburg, have refused to defend before you. The first success is not more than the prelude. The enemy is shaken, but not yet decisively beaten. You have still to undergo severe hardships, to have long marches to fight hard battles like the image of our country, and to have barbarians always remain before your eyes. Never was it more necessary to sacrifice all for her. Solving the heroes who have fallen in the last few days, my thoughts turn towards you, victors in the last battle. Forward, soldiers, for France! The Germans are a formidable enemy, well trained, long prepared, and brave. Their soldiers are carrying on the contest with skill and valor. Nevertheless, they are fighting to win anyhow, regardless of all the rules of fair play. There is evidence that they do not intend to stop anything in order to gain a victory. A large number of the tales of their misbehavior are exaggeration. Some of the stringent precautions they have taken to guard themselves against the inhabitants of the country are probably justifiable measures of war, but it is not necessary to establish that they have committed atrocities on many occasions, and have been guilty of brutal conduct."

A GERMAN'S LETTER. So many letters and statements of our wounded soldiers have been published in our own newspapers that following a cable from a German soldier of the 7th Infantry Regiment to his wife may be interesting:—

"I have just been living through days that defy imagination. I should never have thought that men could stand it. Not a second has passed without my life being in danger, yet not a hair of my head has been hurt. It was horrible, it was terrible, but I have been saved for you and our happiness. I take heart again, although I am still terribly unwell."

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